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(74) Agent: **BOOTSMA, J., P., C.**; DSM Intellectual Property,
P.O. Box 9, NL-6160 MA Geleen (NL).

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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **DSM IP ASSETS B.V.** [NL/NL]; Het Overloon 1, NL-6411 TE Heerlen (NL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **SIMMELINK, Joseph, Arnold, Paul, Maria** [NL/NL]; Ceciliastraat 15, NL-6137 AH Sittard (NL). **MENCKE, Jacobus, Johannes** [NL/NL]; Ambyerstraat Zuid 45, NL-6226 AV Maastricht (NL). **MARISSEN, Roelof** [NL/NL]; Koningstraat 55, NL-6121 HS Born (NL). **JACOBS, Martinus, Johannes, Nicolaas** [NL/NL]; Justus Van Maurikstraat 4, NL-6416 EH Heerlen (NL).

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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR MAKING HIGH-PERFORMANCE POLYETHYLENE MULTIFILAMENT YARN

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for making high-performance polyethylene multi-filament yarn comprising the steps of a) making a solution of ultra-high molar mass polyethylene in a solvent; b) spinning of the solution through a spinplate containing at least 5 spinholes into an air-gap to form fluid filaments, while applying a draw ratio DR_{fluid} ; c) cooling the fluid filaments to form solvent-containing gel filaments; d) removing at least partly the solvent from the filaments; and e) drawing the filaments in at least one step before, during and/or after said solvent removing, while applying a draw ratio DR_{solid} of at least 4, wherein in step b) each spinhole comprises a contraction zone of specific dimension and a downstream zone of diameter D_n and length D_n with L_n/D_n of from 0 to at most 25, to result in a draw ratio $DR_{fluid} = DR_{sp} \cdot DR_{ag}$ of at least 150, wherein DR_{sp} is the draw ratio in the spinholes and DR_{ag} is the draw ratio in the air-gap, with DR_{sp} being greater than 1 and DR_{ag} at least 1. The invention further relates to a high-performance polyethylene multifilament yarn, and to semi-finished or end-use products containing said yarn, especially to ropes and ballistic-resistant composites.



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